

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A catalyst for exhaust gas purification, comprising:
a NO_x absorbent material which absorbs NO_x in an exhaust gas in an environment of excess oxygen whose exhaust gas oxygen concentration level is high, whereas, when the exhaust gas oxygen concentration level becomes lower in a given temperature range, said NO_x absorbent material releases said absorbed NO_x;
a precious material; and
a Ce-Pr mixed oxide which releases a maximum amount of oxygen in said given temperature range,
wherein said Ce-Pr mixed oxide is supported on a substrate and is present in amounts ranging from 15 to 300g per 1L of said substrate.

2-5 (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The exhaust gas purification catalyst of claim 1, wherein at least a part of said NO_x absorbent material is supported on said Ce-Pr mixed oxide.

7. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for exhaust gas purification, comprising:
a NO_x absorbent material formed of at least one of Ba, K, Sr, and Mg MG; a precious metal; and a Ce-Pr mixed oxide,
wherein the catalyst being placed in an exhaust gas of which an oxygen concentration level becomes relatively high in a first period and becomes relatively low in a second period, the first period and the second period being alternately repeated, and Ce-Pr mixed oxide is supported on a substrate and is present in amounts ranging from 15 to 300g per 1L of said substrate.

8. (Withdrawn) A catalyst for exhaust gas purification disposed in an exhaust passage of an engine, comprising:
a NO_x absorbent material which absorbs, when the oxygen concentration level

of an exhaust gas from said engine is high, NO_x, in said exhaust gas, whereas, when said oxygen concentration level becomes lower, said NO_x absorbent material releases said absorbed NO_x;

a precious metal; and
an oxygen storage material which enhances the ionization potential of said NO_x absorbent material.

9. (Withdrawn) The exhaust gas purification catalyst of claim 8, wherein at least a part of said NO_x absorbent material is supported on said oxygen storage material.

10. (Withdrawn) An exhaust gas purification system, comprising:
a catalyst for exhaust gas purification including a NO_x absorbent material which absorbs, when the oxygen concentration level of an exhaust gas is high, NO_x in said exhaust gas, whereas, when said oxygen concentration level becomes lower, said NO_x absorbent material releases said absorbed NO_x, absorbent material releases said absorbed NO_x as said oxygen concentration level becomes lower, and that said second period is shorter than said first period.